



Organics Recycling in Hennepin County

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What does 'organics' mean?

Organics = the **biodegradable** portion of trash that can be **reused** and **recycled**

- All food scraps
- Soiled paper products, not coated with plastic
- Certified compostable plastic foodware, bags



Organics
for composting

Food, food-soiled paper, compostable products

Look for these logos on certified compostable products

BPI CEDAR GROVE Compostable

Hennepin

The poster features a green inverted triangle at the top with the word 'Organics' in large white letters and 'for composting' below it. A small plant icon is centered within the triangle. Below the triangle, the text 'Food, food-soiled paper, compostable products' is written in green. To the right, there is a small text box that says 'Look for these logos on certified compostable products' with logos for BPI (a globe) and CEDAR GROVE Compostable (a tree). Below these are images of various compostable items: a clear plastic cup with a green 'ECO PRODUCTS' logo, a burger, a white paper napkin, a white paper plate, a white paper cup, a white paper bowl, a white paper bag, a white paper container, a white paper cup, and a red apple core. In the bottom right corner, there is a blue logo for Hennepin County.

Waste Composition Poll

Approximately, what portion of our trash is organics?

- 10%
- 20%
- 30%
- 40%

Why recycle organics?

- Organics resource value lost in landfills and release uncaptured methane
- Saves capacity at HERC for materials that produce more energy
- Better, higher use
 - Feeding people and animals
 - Food scraps turned into compost makes for healthier soils and plants
 - If digested, food scraps produce energy and beneficial products



Residential Organics

Composting: Small scale vs Large scale

- Backyard/Home Composting is best at breaking down plant-based foods, plants, and leaves



- Industrial Composting involves collecting organics from various locations and delivering them to a large-scale composting site -- which can break down additional organics



Backyard/Home composting

- Examples of composting bins



<http://www.bostonbuildingresources.com/advice/which-home-compost-bin-is-the-best-choice>

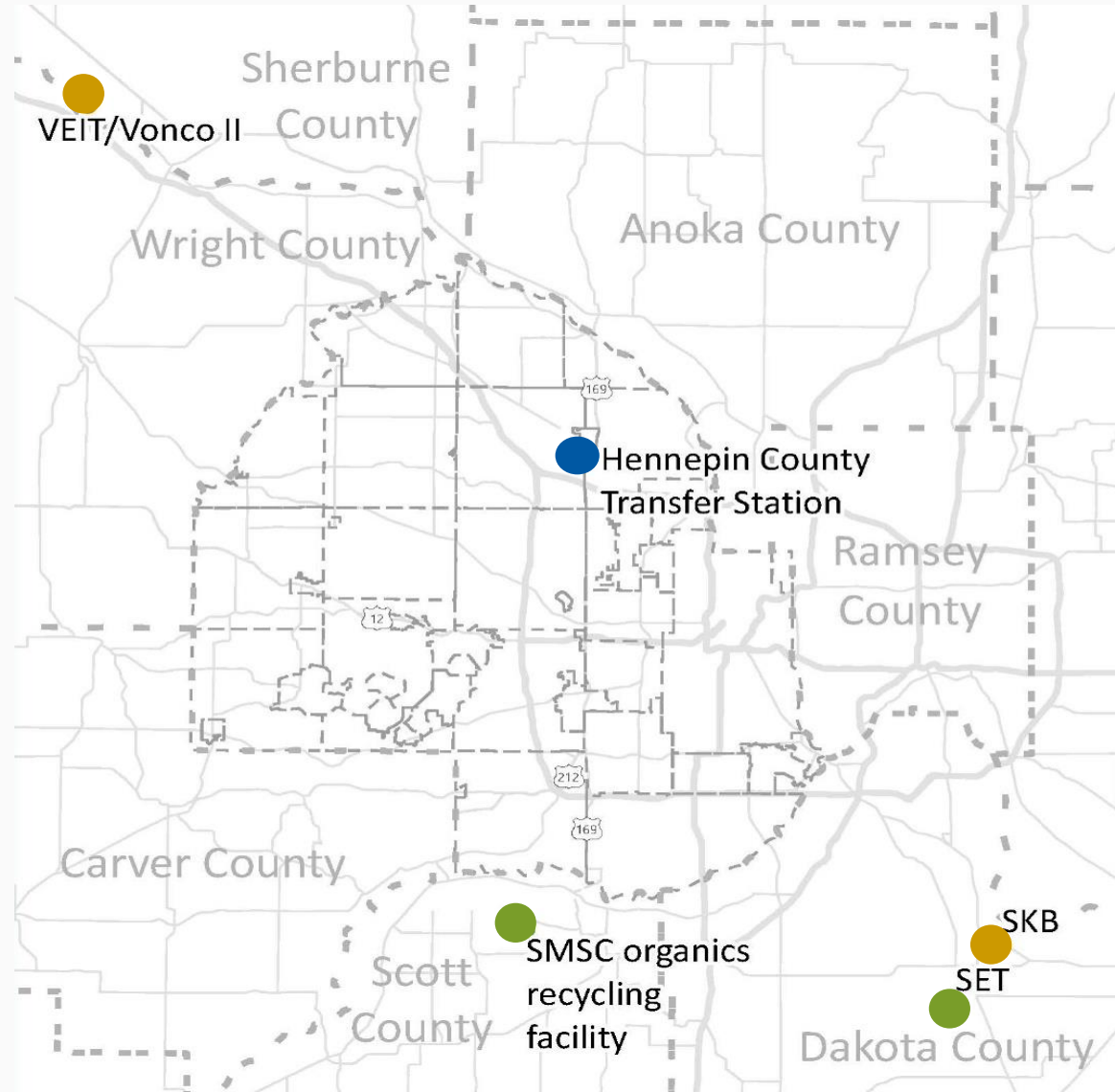


<http://www.myaimistrue.com/2008/06/june-in-the-little-garden/>

Industrial composting



Local industrial composting sites



Sites

- Operating
- Permitted, not operating
- Transfer site

Contamination Poll

Which contaminant is the most problematic for composters?

- Rigid plastics (cups, bowls, clamshell containers)
- Film plastics (bags, food wrap)
- Paper products with plastic coating (coffee cups)
- Glass



Materials accepted

All food scraps including meat and dairy, napkins, paper towels



Compostable products



Residential organics requirement – Ordinance 13

- Went into effect on January 1, 2022
- Cities with over 10,000 residents need to:
 - Provide a city-run organics collection program OR
 - Require haulers to offer organics service
- Cities with under 10,000 residents:
 - Can choose one of the options above, or offer an organics drop-off

Residential options for organics collection

Curbside & alley collection



Drop-offs



Curbside/Alley organics collection programs



- City-run programs
- Hauler requirement

Organics drop-offs

- More than 45 sites county-wide, including 20 sites in Minneapolis
- Map of drop-off locations at hennepin.us/organics
- Most sites open to residents of city where located, though some small cities share sites
- St Louis Park sites are only for residents of multifamily properties



Commercial Organics

Food Rescue

- Donations to food shelves, community kitchens
- Good Samaritan Act
- Second Harvest and The Food Group



Food to Animals

- Some businesses and schools send their food scraps to pig farms
- School districts:
 - Eden Prairie
 - Orono
 - St Anthony



Food-to-Animal Feed Manufacturing

- Focus on grain-based and inedible food products
- Packaged products may be OK
- Processed into:
 - Pelletized feed ingredient
 - Used mainly as corn, soy, fat replacement



Commercial Organics Requirements:

Certain businesses must recycle back-of-house food scraps, beginning January 1, 2020

Applies to businesses in the following sectors that

1. Generate **1 ton** or more of trash per week, or
2. Contract for **8 cubic yards** or more of trash service per week.

- Restaurants
- Food manufacturers
- Food wholesalers/distributors
- Grocery stores
- Hotels
- Hospitals
- Sports venues
- Event centers
- Caterers
- Nursing/residential care facilities
- Office buildings with dining services
- Farmers markets
- Food shelves
- Colleges and universities
- Shopping centers
- Airports
- Golf and country clubs
- Public/rentable commissaries/kitchens

Business incentives

- Financial
 - Lower tipping fees for organics
 - Organics exempt from taxes
 - Reduce level of trash service
 - County business recycling grants



Business support

- Technical assistance
 - Waste audits and waste sorts
 - Internal sorting stations
 - Securing a hauler
- Educational and promotional items
- Staff training



School organics



Participating schools:

- Most public districts
- 20 charter schools
- 25 private schools

Benefits for Schools



- Cost savings
 - Reduced trash service, avoided taxes, lower tip fee
- Hands-on environmental education
 - Teaches good stewardship practices to staff and students

Another Contamination Poll

What's the maximum allowable level of contamination – by volume -- for organics delivered to the local composting sites?

- 5%
- 10%
- 15%
- 20%

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